From:	Andrew Shearer
To:	City Council
Subject:	Concerning the proposed boycott of HP
Date:	Sunday, April 22, 2018 9:28:41 PM

Dear City Council of Cambridge,

The current question of the boycott of HP has been framed as both an essential tool to chasten Israel for its militaristic tendencies as well an assault on the validity of Israel fueled largely by anti-Semitic agitators. Neither view accurately represents the current stated aims of the HP-boycott nor its relationship to the BDS movement. The current proposed boycott is intended to punish a single company that is quietly involved in aiding and abetting the construction of unauthorized, but tacitly state-sponsored, Israeli settlements on Palestinian land. The limited scope of the current boycott will likely have a minimal effect on both the economy of Israel and the decisions of the people actively involved in the building of these settlements. However, it may pressure the business community to evaluate whether or not it is worth continuing to do business in a country whose ruling political party allows, and in some cases actively supports, the erosion of Palestinian rights and land. Regardless of the decision reached by the council I am happy to live in a city where such discussions can be contextualized with representatives from both sides without rote dismissal or legalized silencing of their concerns.

Thank you for your time and the consideration of my words,

Andrew Shearer

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